



Minutes of a meeting of the **Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group** held on **Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 10am – 12pm** via Microsoft Teams

Present: Cllr Tom Weatherston, Chair (deputising for Cllr David Parker)
Chris Myers, Chief Officer
Dr Sohail Bhatti, Director of Public Health
David Bell, Staff Side Representative, SBC
Jen Holland, Director of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships
Lynn Gallacher, Borders Carers Centre
Caroline Green, Public Member
Susan Holmes, Principal Internal Audit Officer, IJB
Amanda Miller, Eildon Housing Association
Clare Oliver, Head of Communications and Engagement, NHS Borders
Hazel Robertson, IJB Chief Financial Officer
Jenny Smith, Co-ordinator, Borders Care Voice

In Attendance: Laura Prebble, Minute Taker
Elke Fabry, Project Manager
Philip Grieve, Mental Health
Hayley Jacks, Planning & Performance Officer
Lainey Thomas, Communications Officer
Pippa Walls, Programme and Communications Manager

1. APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies received from Cllr David Parker (Chair), Keith Allan, Wendy Henderson and Colin McGrath.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2022 was approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING/ACTION TRACKER

- Unpaid Carers – Work is progressing well in the carers workstream. Options are being explored relating to increasing respite provision for carers. In addition, as per previous updates being undertaken on a locality by locality basis to understand need at a locality level for day services and other supports, starting in the Teviot and Liddesdale locality.
- Membership – This will be required once the Locality Working Groups are re-established, as each locality working group should have a nominee on the SPG, and one on the IJB representing all localities.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the Action Tracker.

4. HAWICK CARE VILLAGE OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Jen Holland presented the paper circulated in advance of the meeting. A non-financial appraisal has been carried out by the Care Village Programme Board on the options included; refurbishment of Deanfield and the two new build proposals. The future demand for beds in Hawick up to 2030 has been predicted to be an additional 59 beds required and so the plan is for an increase of 60 beds. The recommendation made is for a new building on the Stirches site with the closure of Deanfield and a Council workstream to develop the Deanfield site as part of the process. The IJB will be asked to approve the additional revenue spend associated to the reprovision and extra care capacity to meet the increasing need. The staff and residents of Deanfield will move into the new facility and have been consulted as part of this process.

Jenny Smith queried the number of respite beds proposed. Jen Holland confirmed that there is a key need for respite and this would be worked through the FBC process. It was hoped that beds would be commissioned by the IJB to accommodate need and so additional respite beds should be available. The scoping of beds required is still to be carried out and the configuration of beds will be part of the full business case. Interim beds and step/up down will be considered to help free up capacity in hospitals. Jenny agreed there is a need for the ability to step up/step down which should not be lost.

David Bell queried the care village model as staff and members of the public have expressed a concern and requested more information. Jen Holland noted that the care village model proposed was based on the NDTi feedback from Hawick about what should be in a care village, but at this stage the OBC is about establishing the outline case with the overall vision that would be worked through with the care model as part of the full business case.

Lynn Gallacher noted that there is an identified need for building based day care which would reduce the number of people needing residential care, and indicated that there was a need for a robust whole pathway approach. Jen Holland noted the vision is to have more people living at home longer and that this work dovetails with the on-going work on day care services. Chris Myers advised that this will be in the overall model in the full business case, together with the reference to keeping people at home longer, and will include all care services provided. The new commissioning team are planning to map care across the whole of the Borders. They will then use this information to support the partnership to commission the best model around the need.

Jenny Smith asked if the 113 attendees at the events could be shown by equalities in the Equalities Impact Assessment and queried the language used. Chris Myers noted that the project team are going back to NDTi to see if this information is available Jenny Smith asked if there were any plans to reach certain equalities groups that had not been reached to engage with them. Chris Myers confirmed that this would be part of the evolving stage 2 IIA that will be worked through as part of the FBC process.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** approved the care village outline business case for consideration by the Integration Joint Board on the basis that further work would be undertaken as part of stage 2 of the IIA.

5. **DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

Elke Fabry shared an updated version of the draft framework on screen for discussion. The mission, vision, outcomes and 6 objectives are now ready to be share with the public for feedback. The next step of engagement is being planned to ask communities how they can help to deliver this change. It will be important to note that plan will be limited by finance and resources.

Dr Sohail Bhatti noted one of the priorities is to reduce health inequalities and advised that in his experience people at the bottom are less likely to complain. He noted that it was important to be more explicit in the wording of the framework on how to address social and economic inequalities. Chris Myers asked for Dr Sohail Bhatti's guidance on the working and noted this would be taken on board. Chris Myers advised that equalities and human rights are a key part of the framework and the evolving IJB/ HSCP mainstreaming approach that would be presented to the IJB shortly.

Chris Myers noted there is on-going discussion with NHSB and SBC to adopt the Strategic Framework as their strategy for health and social care. The draft Strategic Framework is also being taken to CPP for their consideration. The Community Led Support agenda aligns at a community level.

Lynn Gallacher quoted that 29.4% of carers feel unsupported and noted that this will be impacted on by the waiting time for care assessment and care packages. If the needs of the cared for are met then in most cases the needs of the carer will also be met. This should be reflected in the document.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the framework and that a final revised version of the Strategic Framework will be brought back to the Integration Joint Board for consideration by the end of the financial year.

6. **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK – NEXT STEPS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Clare Oliver gave an update on the plans for engagement. The draft framework will be taken to the IJB next month before the second stage of engagement begins. Communications will keep the community informed, updating them on how their input has shaped the draft plan and the purpose of the plan. There will be work to continue nurturing the developing relationships with those previously involved and to encourage and seek further views, especially those with protected characteristics. Engagement is planned to take place at the end of February and beginning of March.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the verbal update.

7. **TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE DAY SERVICE UPDATE**

Chris Myers gave a verbal update. The group have been meeting to scope the need in the locality. NDTi have run several engagement events across the locality. There has been liaison with the Care Inspectorate regarding the registration of a new day service. A concern was noted by the Care Inspectorate regarding the Katherine Elliot Centre building

and so alternative buildings are being explored. A market sounding exercise has been sent out and replies are expected by mid-February. To then explore options for the service. The group is working at pace and good progress is being made but the registration process means there are time constraints. Stage 2 of the Integrated Impact Assessment is part of the process. The IJB have now also formally apologised in person and in writing to the Teviot Day Services Support Group, and have had a good discussion with the group on the next steps.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the verbal update.

8. NATIONAL CARE SERVICE (NCS) RESPONSE

The response from Kevin Stewart had been circulated. Chris Myers has had initial discussions with the Scottish Government and has shared the journey being made in the Borders. The Scottish Government were interested in the NDTi engagement work carried out to develop our draft Strategic Framework. They were also particularly interested in the rural nature of the Borders, our co-terminous IJB, Council, Health Board, Community Planning Partnership, and the age profile of our population. The Scottish Government are keen to continue discussions but have indicated that they currently are not clear on what a pathfinder would involve. Jenny Smith noted the Third sector forum would be happy to run a workshop on this.

David Bell noted COSLA's refusal to have any involvement with the NCS and asked if SBC is likely to have a different view. Cllr Tom Weatherston noted that Councillors attend COSLA meetings and would not have separate views. Chris Myers reassured David Bell that the letter sent to the Scottish Government suggested the Scottish Borders could achieve the aims and outcomes of the NCS without the structural change suggested nationally. We now already have an emerging vision and good progress being made towards working in a way in line with what is best for the people of the Borders through our draft Strategic Framework.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the update.

9. NEW MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT & SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN 2020-25

Pippa Walls was welcomed to the meeting and presented the action plan. The purpose is to raise awareness and start conversations. The plan connects to the Strategic Framework and tackles 2 outcomes referenced. There are 4 ambitions and 4 programme areas. The aim is to have mentally healthy communities. Pippa advised the plan will come back to this group to start a more detailed conversation in the future.

Chris Myers thanked Pippa and noted that as the principles would need to be embedded across the Partnership, he asked if there is support from the Health Board, Council and other key partners. Jenny Smith added the need for the third sector to have an understanding and to have discussions. Lynn Gallacher offered to be more practically involved as she is working with unpaid carers who are struggling with their mental health. David Bell noted the link between physical and mental health and the need to prevent people from re-presenting to mental health services. Chris Myers noted that an Integrated Impact Assessment would need to be developed and inform the plan prior to this being considered by the IJB.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the action plan and requested that public health returned with the updated IIA and any revisions to the plan in advance of this being considered by the IJB.

10. FINANCE UPDATE

Hazel Robertson gave an update on the financial position at the end of December 2022. There has been no further deterioration noted since the previous period and some improvement noted. The forecast for the year end remains an overspend of £6.25M. The Scottish Government are pulling back some Covid-19 funding from Month 8 onwards. Covid-19 reserves finish in March 2023 whilst the risk is on-going and funding for PPE and vaccination are still needed.

The format of the IJB Finance reporting will be improving. An evaluation process is starting. Directions of travel will be added and the healthcare information expanded. The financial reporting will be linked to the financial plan.

Lynn Gallacher requested that the Carers Act funding be shown clearly on the report. Hazel noted that she is working towards this and an anticipated underspend on the carers funding and offered to have a separate conversation with Lynn on this topic.

David Bell asked if long Covid will be an additional pressure in the future and asked what this cost might be. Hazel noted she will be having a conversation with Andrew Bone next week on this topic.

Chris Myers noted the financial environment will continue to be challenging and inflation is having an impact on communities and our service provision. Within this context there is a need to be transparent and honest with our communities on the scale of the challenges ahead and the impacts that this could have on changes to service provision.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the Month 9 Finance report.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business noted.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair confirmed the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Group would be held on Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 10am to 12pm via Microsoft Teams.

Future Meeting Dates 2023 10am – 12pm:

7 June 2023

2 August 2023

4 October 2023

6 December 2023